Governments for establishment of PCPIRs in terms of this policy and also facilitate availability of external physical infrastructure linkages including rail, road, ports, and airports. Similarly, the State Government, applying for a PCPIR, will ensure that all physial infrastructure and utilities linkages under its jurisdiction are provided. Applications received from interested State Governments for setting up PCPIRs are to be considered in terms of the PCPIR Policy. No time-frame can be fixed for coming up of PCPIRs.

(d) The investment requirements of a PCPIR will depend on its location and other factors which will include the availability of existing infrastructure and the project proposal, which will be worked out in consultation with various concerned departments of the GOI. Exact quantification of investment would depend on the proposed specific details.

Subsidized fertilizers to farmers

1198. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the farmers are getting fertilizers at subsidized rates;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the quantum of funds allocated for this purpose; and

(d) the details of subsidy allocated to fertilizer sector during the current year and the details of the benefits to the farmers in each State of the country from the present fertilizer subsidy proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (d) The Union Government is administering a subsidy scheme on sale of various chemical fertilizer *viz.* urea, DAP, MOP, 11 grades of complex fertilizers and SSP. These subsidized fertiliers are provided to farmers at a notified maximum retail price which is much lower than the actual delivered cost of these fertilizers at farmgate level. The maximum retail price of fertilizers notified by Government is as under:

(Rupees per MT)

Product	From 12.03.03 till date
Urea	4830
Ind. DAP	9350
Imp. DAP	9350
MOP	4455
16:20:00	7100
20:20:00	7280
23:23:00	8000
28:28:00	9080
10:26:26	8360
12:32:16	8480
14:28:14	8300
14:35:14	8660
15:15:15	6980
17:17:17	8100
19:19:19	8300

A total of Rs. 36501.01 crore has been allocated till date for payment of fertilizer subsidy against the estimated total requirement of Rs. 45659.40 crore in the current year.

The subsidy is released to the manufacturers/importers on sale of fertilizers and thus benefit to the farmers in each State of the country from the present fertilizer subsidy accrues in proportion of their consumption of fertilizers within the State.

Fall in prices of drugs due to introduction of fixed margins on generic drugs

1199. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether prices of more than half of all drugs have come down by 50 per cent with effect from 2nd October, 2007 with the introduction of fixed margins on generic drugs for wholesalers and retailers and his Ministry and the industry have also agreed that the upper limit price for drugs would be kept outside price control at Rs. 3 a tablet and drugs priced more than Rs.3 per tablet would come under price control; and

(b) whether Government has also set up a 14 member committee consisting of his Ministry and representatives of industry to look into the different aspects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) Fixed margins on generic drugs for wholesalers and retailers have not been introduced/notified so far by the Government. Under para 19 of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO 1995), 16% margin to retailer is allowed in respect of Scheduled formulations. Fixation/revision of prices of Scheduled bulk drugs and formulations based thereon is an ongoing exercise undertaken by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) under provisions of DPCO, 1995. There is no agreement between the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers and the drug industry that the upper limit price for drugs would be kept outside price control at Rs.3 a tablet and drugs priced more than Rs. 3 per tablet would come under price control.

(b) Yes, Madam. A Joint Committee under the Chairmanship of the then Secretary (C&PC) consisting of officials of the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals and representatives of drug industry was constituted in August, 2006 to look into certain issues and this Committee has since submitted its report to the Government on 30-11-2006.

Investment in PCPIRs

1200. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to invest Rs. 4,000 to Rs. 10,000 crores in the Petroleum, Chemical and Petrochemical Investment Regions (PCPIR) and if so, the details in this regard; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that some States have set their propoals, for investment in this regard, and if so, the names of these States, the amount proposed to be invested by them and the decision taken on the proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) and (b) The Cabinet has recently approved